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Sent: 12/12/2016 1:21:26 PM
To: Wozniak, Chris [wozniak.chris@epa.gov]
Subject: Oxitec's Medfly Ready for Open Field Trials

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Oxitec's Medfly Ready for Open Field Trials

Oxford, UK, 12th December 2016 – Oxitec announced today that after a series of successful contained environment studies across multiple countries with its self-limiting Mediterranean fruit fly (Medfly), the Company is ready to move forward towards open field trials. The studies demonstrated the self-limiting Medfly's ability to successfully mate with wild Medfly and subsequently suppress the pest population. The efficacy of the Oxitec Medfly and existing control methods were also examined.

Oxitec's Chief Scientific Officer, Simon Warner, Ph.D., said, "Over the past few years, the performance of our Medfly solution in testing across different countries has confirmed our belief that this product may deliver superior efficacy and an improved environmental profile as compared to many products on the market today. We are now planning to advance our environmentally-friendly Medfly product into field trials in different countries to demonstrate its potential in open environments."

The Medfly (*Ceratitis capitata*) is considered one of the world's most destructive agricultural pests capable of causing billions of dollars in damage by attacking more than 250 types of fruits, nuts and vegetables. Females lay their eggs inside fruit making them vulnerable to infection and rot, and larvae feed on the fruit reducing crop yields and quality. It is found throughout the Mediterranean and Africa, and is an invasive pest in Australia and the Americas.

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